

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, GE, US, FR

SUBJECT: US-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: PARIS 1975

1. AMBASSADOR CLAUDE CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF QUAI'S BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, INVITED EMBASSY OFFICERS TO MEET WITH HIM TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FRENCH POSITION WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH GDR. CONSUL GENERAL AND MEMBER POLITICAL SECTION SAW HIM THIS AFTERNOON. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. QUAI HAS BEEN INFORMED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL OF RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN FRENCH EMBASSY AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. (WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT FROM DEPT. ON THESE CONVERSATIONS.) AS A RESULT IT APPEARED THAT FRENCH AND US POSITIONS WERE VERY MUCH THE SAME ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES SUCH AS NATIONALITY AND CONSULAR ACCESS.

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3. CHAYET THEN RECALLED HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH US (REFTEL) IN WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED THAT FRANCE WAS IN NO HURRY TO NEGOTIATE AND PREFERRED TO AWAIT RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS BETWEEN GDR AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING US. HE SAID THAT FROM HIS STRICTLY CONSULAR STANDPOINT THIS WAS STILL THE CASE. HOWEVER, QUAI POLITICAL AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PUSH AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS NOW AND HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE COUNTER PROPOSAL. REASON FOR CHANGE WAS PARTLY A FEELING THAT FRANCE OWED GDR A TIMELY RESPONSE TO THEIR PROPOSAL, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN FRENCH AND AMERICAN VIEWPOINTS MADE IT APPEAR ADVANTAGEOUS FOR TWO NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCEED CONCURRENTLY INSOFAR AS FEASIBLE. IN OTHER WORDS, FRENCH HOPE TO NEGOTIATE IN PARALLEL AND IN CONSULTATION WITH US.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT TIME FRAME WAS ENVISAGED, CHAYET REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD HAVE A COUNTER PROPOSAL DRAFTED BY END OF MARCH FOR PRESENTATION TO GDR.

5. CHAYET SAID FRENCH WOULD TRY HARD TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO NATIONALITY IN TEXT OF CONVENTION. IF EAST GERMANS PROVE ADAMANT THROUGHOUT FIRST PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN INSISTING ON DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, CHAYET HOPES THAT IN SECOND ROUND FALL-BACK POSITION COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT DEFINE NATIONALITY IN SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS TERMS TO SATISFY WEST GERMANS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SPECULATED THAT FRENCH WORD "RESSORTISSANT" MIGHT BE USED. WHEN ASKED HOW HE WOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "RESSORTISSANT" AND NATIONAL HE CITED EXAMPLE OF ANDORRA, WHOSE INHABITANTS ARE CONSIDERED "RESSORTISSANTS FRANCAIS" BUT NOT FRENCH NATIONALS.

6. CHAYET EMPHASIZED THAT FRENCH WANTED TO AVOID ANY SEPARATE UNDERSTANDING WITH FRG SUCH AS EXCHANGE OF NOTES ALONG BRITISH MODEL.

7. QUAI'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE,
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PLAISANT, HAD EARLIER TODAY DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH MEMBER EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION ALONG SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR LINES, EXCEPT THAT (A) NO MENTION WAS MADE OF FRENCH INTENTIONS TO PRESS AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS, AND (B) THAT FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO ENTER INTO SEPARATE ACCORD WITH FRG WAS EXTENDED TO EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT US WOULD NOT DO SO.

8. CHAYET PROVIDED US WITH TEXT OF DRAFT CONVENTION
PRESENTED THEM BY GDR WHICH WE ARE TRANSMITTING UNDER
COVER OF AIRGRAM.
RUSH

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